

Response to Office Action
Docket No. 002.0165.US.UTL

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5 **Listing of Claims:**

- 1 1. (previously presented): A system for negotiating multi-path
2 connections between a plurality of intermediary devices in a networked
3 computing environment, comprising:
4 a client-side network protocol stack defined on an intermediary device
5 available from a plurality of intermediary devices on a primary communications
6 channel and establishing a client-side connection between a requesting client and
7 the intermediary device in accordance with a connection-oriented network
8 protocol;
9 a server-side network protocol stack establishing a server-side connection
10 between the intermediary device and a requested server on a primary
11 communications channel in accordance with the connection-oriented network
12 protocol;
13 a synchronization module determining differences in connection
14 parameters defined for the client-side connection and the server-side connection
15 and communicating the connection parameter differences to at least one other
16 such intermediary device over an out-of-band communications channel.

- 1 2. (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 the synchronization module communicating a service request initially
3 received from the requesting client to the at least one other such intermediary
4 device while establishing the client-side connection over the out-of-band
5 communications channel.

- 1 3. (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

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2 the synchronization module deferring communicating the connection
3 parameter differences for transitory connections.

1 4. (original): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the out-of-band
2 communications channel comprises at least one of a broadcast, multicast, or
3 point-to-point channel.

1 5. (original): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the connection-
2 oriented network protocol comprises the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP).

1 6. (original): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the
2 intermediary device comprises at least one of a firewall and a boundary controller.

1 7. (previously presented): A method for negotiating multi-path
2 connections between a plurality of intermediary devices in a networked
3 computing environment, comprising:

4 establishing a client-side connection between a requesting client and an
5 intermediary device available from a plurality of intermediary devices on a
6 primary communications channel in accordance with a connection-oriented
7 network protocol;

8 establishing a server-side connection between the intermediary device and
9 a requested server on a primary communications channel in accordance with the
10 connection-oriented network protocol;

11 determining differences in connection parameters defined for the client-
12 side connection and the server-side connection; and

13 communicating the connection parameter differences to at least one other
14 such intermediary device over an out-of-band communications channel.

1 8. (original): A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:
2 communicating a service request initially received from the requesting
3 client to the at least one other such intermediary device while establishing the
4 client-side connection over the out-of-band communications channel.

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1 9. (original): A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:
2 deferring communicating the connection parameter differences for
3 transitory connections.

1 10. (original): A method according to Claim 7, wherein the out-of-
2 band communications channel comprises at least one of a broadcast, multicast, or
3 point-to-point channel.

1 11. (original): A method according to Claim 7, wherein the
2 connection-oriented network protocol comprises the Transmission Control
3 Protocol (TCP).

1 12. (original): A computer-readable storage medium holding code for
2 performing the method of Claim 7.

1 Claims 13-20 (canceled).